

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT
3d DISTRICT, MISSOURI

MAJORITY LEADER
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1432 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2671

DISTRICT OFFICE:
9959 GRAYVOIS
ST. LOUIS, MO 63123
PHONE: (314) 631-9959

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February 19, 1993

PPB
92-235
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APR 12 1993

Mr. Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Haller,

I would like to express my concern over P.R. Docket 92-235, the FCC's proposal to re-assign radio frequencies in the 72/76 MHz band.

A number of my constituents have expressed serious concerns about this plan. As you know, while the change in frequencies may benefit land mobile radio users, it would interfere with the ability of hobbyists to safely operate their radio controlled (R/C) airplanes.

This sport, enjoyed by thousands, contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry. Its enthusiasts belong to R/C clubs and participate in organized events and contests all over the country. Often, these hobbyists have invested substantial amounts of money in their equipment.

Any actions which could affect the safety and feasibility of this sport should only be taken after very careful consideration. I am forwarding copies of the many letters I have received to your office. I understand that radio frequency bands are a limited resource and that this is a complex situation. I urge you, however, to give full and fair consideration to the important interests of R/C enthusiasts before reaching any final decisions.

Yours very truly,

Richard A. Gephardt
Richard A. Gephardt

RAG: mww

enclosure

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February 8, 1993

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The Honorable Richard Gephardt
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: PR Docket 92-235

Dear Mr. Gephardt:

I have just been informed of a Notice of Proposed Rule Making by the FCC for the above referenced docket number. As a radio controlled model airplane flier, I am very concerned about the possible adoption of this rule and its effect on the frequencies we use for our hobby. The radio control frequencies we use for our models are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. Presently, private land mobile dispatch operations are the primary users of this band but we coexist with their use because there is presently enough spacing of the frequencies that we can use this band without either of the users bothering the other.

We only recently moved up to 50 frequencies for model use and the proposed FCC plan will result in the loss of use of 31 of those frequencies for model operations. As all of my equipment, mostly new, are on the frequencies that could be lost, I would see a large expenditure over the past two years become instantly useless.

I realize that you may look upon this as minor in comparison to commercial interests, but there are tens of thousands of modelers out there who partake of this hobby and spend a considerable amount of their "spendable" income on this hobby. I for one compete on the local, national and international level and spend a lot of my spare time and income being in this hobby. Competitions like these involve many people, particularly on the national and international level, and the use of the existing 50 frequencies is a prime safety factor. The insertion of these high power (as much as 4 times our equipment's power) will cause a safety hazard if models are flown. We, as a hobby, go to great lengths to assure safety in the operation of our models.

I implore you to stop this proposed rule (PR Docket 92-235) so that we can continue to safely enjoy our hobby. Surely there is another band of frequencies that can be put to use for the land mobile frequencies?

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and I look forward to the future use of the existing frequencies free from interference.

Sincerely,



Mark Nankivil
7411 Canterbury Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63143

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
NOT ACKNOWLEDGED